

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3041

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6288

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS

SUBJECT: KOENIG REPORT NOT DISCUSSED AT CABINET MEETING

REF: TEL AVIV 6216

1. AT THE CABINET MEETING SEPTEMBER 12 PRIME MINISTER RABIN SIDESTEPPED A MOVE BY MINISTERS SHEMTOV (MAPAM) AND KOL (INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY) FOR THE CABINET TO DISCUSS AND CONDEMN THE KOENIG REPORT (REFTEL). PERTINENT EXTRACT FROM THE TEXT OF THE CABINET COMMUNIQUE IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. "IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS BY MINISTERS MOSHE KOL AND VICTOR SHEMTOV CONCERNING A DISCUSSION - IN THE CABINET OR BY THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ISRAEL'S ARABS' AFFAIRS - OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MEMBRONDUM SENT TO THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR BY NORTHERN DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE ISRAEL KOENIG, THE PRIME MINISTER REMARKED THAT HE SAW NO CALL TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN CONSEQUENCE OF LEAKS OF A MEMORANDUM BY A CIVIL SERVANT, ALL THE MORE SO SINCE NO MEMORANDUM ON THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIM ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. ADDING THAT THE

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GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE SUBJECT OF ISRAEL'S ARABS REMAINED

IN FORCE, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT ANY DISCUSSION ON ANY ASPECT WHATSOEVER OF THE ISSUE MUST BE HELD IN LINE WITH CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE, AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTS.

3. "IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTED THAT ON 28 JUNE 1976 - UPON CONCLUSION OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MINISTERS CONCERNED - NA INTER-OFFICE COMMITTEE HEADED BY INTERIOR MINISTRY DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAIM KUBERSKY HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH DRAWING UP PROPOSALS AND A CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOLUTION OF PLANNING AND BUILDING ISSUES IN THE ARAB SECTOR IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT. THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1976. THIS REPORT WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, AND WOULD FORM A BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS- IN THE NEAR FUTURE - BY THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ISRAEL'S ARABS' AFFAIRS. THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR WOULD BE MAKING THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC."

4. THE SECOND REPORT - WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN STAMPED WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY DIRECTOR-GENERAL KUBERSKY'S NAME, IS TO BE REALEASED FOR GENERAL PUBLICATION SEPTEMBER 13. ACCORDING TO THE JERUSALEM POST, THE KUBERSKY REPORT FINDS THAT THE EXTENT OF ILLEGAL ARAB CONSTRUCTION IS FAR LESS THAN PUBLICIZED IN JULY (TEL AVIV 5232 AND 5393). THE JULY FIGURES ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON OUT-DATED INFORMATION.
TOON

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